

est that could be brought against the South. Every child knew that the North were not fighting for abolition; the recent elections showed that they were in favor of slavery, and were fighting only to impose prohibitive tariffs on English goods. He ex-

ties held slaves, and half either abolished the slave or had made legal provision for its extinction. The delegates from the Slave States demanded compensation for their stolen property; the delegates from the Free States to the North, reduced to the alternative of departing from the fundamental principles on which they had asserted their own liberty, or of forfeiting the Union they so much desired, stifled their convictions, and with adverting to the present evil times, presented them by South Carolina and Georgia, themselves the slaveholders, conservation, propagation, and perpetuity of slavery became the vital principle of that national Government, and continued to be so for seventy-two years. During those seventy-two years down to 1861, the presidential chair was for forty-eight years filled by slaveholders, and for twenty-four years by slaves and degraded drudges of that Slave Power. During those seventy-two years, the slaveholders increased the number of Slave States from six to fifteen. They increased the number of their slaves from one million to 4,000,000. They proportionately increased the number of their representatives in Congress, and at last advanced their intention to make slavery universal throughout the States and territories of the Union. The party platform or political manifestoes put forward in 1860 all clearly demonstrate that, with some difference of degree, the great majority of the representatives of the South were the ascendancy and perpetuity of slavery. When thirty years ago the *Liberator*—a journal designed for the advocacy of the doctrine of emancipation—was started, a reward of \$25,000 was offered by the Senate of Georgia for the capture of any man who aided a fugitive slave. A substantial person formed themselves into a party to disseminate information respecting the wrongs of the slave, the South had but to give word, and great public meetings were forthwith held at the North to denounce them as traitors and conspirators. It may be said, with some claim to a knowledge of the state of affairs in this matter, that the people of the North, however, only slowly awakened to the danger of permitting the growth of slavery. For fifty years they unresistingly tolerated the monopoly of the Federal Government by the Slave Power. They allowed themselves to be plunged in costly wars, and the shedding of blood, and the loss of territory, they were forced to submit to the violation of an oath, limiting the area of slavery. They were benighted law, they limited the area of slavery. They were called upon to turn man-hunters, and enforce the pains and penalties of the Fugitive Slave Law. When followed the invasion of Kansas, and finally the outbreak of the rebellion, it was found that slavery was a constitutional right in all the States and territories of the Union. These and any other things which I have not time to enumer-

ated the meeting not to be led away by the cry of slavery—everybody detested slavery." ("No, no, you don't.") He was not of that small class who thought England could do nothing right, and America might as well let her alone. "If we will law and justice, could do nothing wrong. The doings of the South, had as they might be, were, as far as the war was concerned, creditable in comparison with those of the North. All the humanity had been on the side of the South." ("No, no, no.") If they were the better people described by the lecturer, it was very strange that their actions had not come to light before now. (Hear and opposition.) He maintained that a reunion of the American States was an impossibility, and that separation was best for the slaves and for everybody else. With all the boasts of goodness on the North, they would compromise with the South to keep the peace, and thus establishing slavery, provided the goods of old England were prohibited. (Cheers and opposition.)

Mr. WHEATMAN asked Mr. Thompson whether blacks were allowed to sit with the whites at the public hotel tables in the North, to travel in the same railway carriages, and enjoy the social and religious privileges of the community.

Mr. THOMPSON said a great change had taken place in the New England and some other Northern States, especially Massachusetts, and the blacks were allowed to sit with the whites at table, travel in the same carriages, vote, attend the same schools, &c. The only exception was, that the Federal laws prevented the free intermingling of the races. He regretted that prejudice against the blacks still existed to a large extent in the North, but maintained that it was the result of slavery, and did not disprove the general disposition of the North in favor of abolition. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. S. JACKSON (nail-maker) took Mr. Harvey to task for defending the South, and maintained that the distribution of wealth was unequal between the rich and poor here as between the whites and blacks in Northern America. (Laughter.) He maintained that to support secession, as the Rev. Page Hops had done, was to support slavery, and that the English aristocracy and newspapers supported secession as most mortifying, and because they disliked the free institutions of America. (Cheers.)

Mr. WHEATMAN said he had travelled much in America, and knew that in Massachusetts and other States the blacks were not allowed to associate with the whites, or enjoy the same privileges; and indeed, that in many parts of the country, even where he described his position as worse than that of a slave, on account of these social distinctions.

Mr. IRONSIDE, innery, said the men shot by

to lead to the organization of what was called the Republican party, which gave, in 1856, 1,300,000 votes to General Fremont, and in 1860 placed Abraham Lincoln in the Presidential chair. "The history of the war during the last twenty months is known to you all, and I shall content myself with referring to its results. There can be no question that the feeling of hostility to slavery has been immeasurably extended throughout the Northern States, and a deep conviction created that the future peace and prosperity of the country would be secured by already 250,000 or 300,000 slaves have received their freedom. The Message of the President, recommending compensated emancipation, though tant in a recognition of the rights of the slaves, nevertheless an admission of the necessity of making provision for the ultimate entire abolition of the system of negro servitude. Wherever the plan proposed is defective, it is also, in my judgment, intractable, and the people and Government will at last, I believe, have to resort to a measure of unconditional emancipation founded upon the principle of justice to the slave without reference to the inclination, convenience, or profit of the master. There is no doubt that the people of the North and South were would, however, be several resolutions to propose, and, in so doing, any one taking a different view would have an opportunity of explaining that view. He thanked the meeting for their patience, and the indulgence they had extended to him. (Cheers.) He wished it to be distinctly understood that there were two questions, of which he did not know, and that there was no question that could be raised bearing upon what he had that night stated, which he was not able satisfactorily to

newer. (Applause.)

Mr. IRONSIDE then rose to propose—

"That civil war in any country is an unmitigated evil, more especially in America, whose career of prosperity and liberty has been unprecedented; and as the institution of slavery has been the most prominent influential cause of the war, this meeting is of the opinion that the present American crisis for slavery should be terminated, and thus not only end the war, but give a promising and hopeful prospect in the future of peace and prosperity both to America and England."

At length an opportunity had arrived—an opportunity for a stab at the traitors of the North, whose liberal newspapers had represented the South upon this matter. He said they had not. Cheers.) The public of Sheffield ought to have moved in the question long since, but they had been pathetic. (Hear, hear.) He designated the neutrality of the British Government in the present crisis as a crime, simply a proof of its cowardly policy. Referring to the statement made by Earl Russell, at "the North was fighting for empire, and the South for independence," he said that was only a lie that had died out. The next thing Lord Russell did was to protest against the blockading of Southern ports as "unjustifiable." (He Mr. Ironside then gave the Foreign Affairs Committee of Sheffield. (Laughter.) Yes, the speaker at that; but when the Sepoys of India rebelled, the British blew them from the mouths of their guns; how could they, therefore, now complain of the United States for starving the rebels? After alluding to the affair of the Trent, and the more recent capture of the *Albatross*, he said he did not believe that there was a man in Sheffield who would not sympathize and claim sympathy with the Southern cause. He

Mr. HENRY TURNER moved:

"That while this meeting expresses its unlimited abhorrence of slavery, and hopes the time is not distant when, by means political and just, this relic of barbarism shall be abolished—and yet seeing the universal bravery, skillful generalship, vast resources—'Bosh, and upsur!'—and consequent victory or defeat of the United States, and the inevitable exposure of the exposure of life and treasure by the North—this meeting is of opinion that the Southern States should be at once recognized by England, France, and other nations, (hisses), and that the North would thus end this terrible war of oppression and blood."

He maintained that the proper way to put an end to slavery was not to sympathize with the North, but to cease to buy slave-grown cotton and sugar. He denied that the North were in favor of abolition. They were no better than the South, and it would be far better for England to have commercial relations with the South than with the North, which had not only shut out our goods, but heaped all possible insult upon England. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DOWSON, on moving the amendment, defended the press against the charges of corruption made by some of the speakers, and urged that the North were as much below the South in politics, or in their condition as men, as the South were below them in supporting slavery. The speaker evoked disapprobation by, in conclusion, deprecating an appeal to God in such manner.

Mr. THOMSON urged that the fact of Mr. Lincoln and the Government having yielded after months of delay to the general voice of the North in favor of abolition, was proof of the sincerity of the North in its opposition to slavery. The press, with a few exceptions, such as the *New York Herald*,

returned to have seen a letter from a clergyman, published in a Sheffield journal, the main argument of which letter was, that slavery should be abolished by the use of moral suasion, and that the North wanted not intervention, but sympathy, and the sympathy of England was with the North. ("No, no," and "Yes, yes.") He had seen it evinced at a general public meeting. In conclusion, Mr. Thompson maintained there was nothing so easy as the restoration of the American Union, for slavery had only to be abolished to beggar the Southern slaveholders, who had not a penny, except in slavery, and who are now fighting with the exasperation of despair, realizing that they had no ally against abolition. England misunderstood the North

